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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 001660

SIPDIS

STATE FOR DRL/CRA, DRL/IRF, DRL/BA, EUR/UBI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM KIRF NL

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING: NO PROBLEM

REF: STATE 95060

AIRTIME ON DUTCH RADIO AND TELEVISION IS SUBJECT TO LICENSING BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR THE MEDIA. IT IS GRANTED ON THE BASIS OF STRICT CRITERIA TO LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE A SUFFICIENT FOLLOWING. THESE CRITERIA ARE STRICTLY NON-DISCRIMINATORY. THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WITH THE LICENSING SYSTEM. ALL THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS HAVE AIRTIME. THERE IS NO CENSORSHIP, AS THE DUTCH FULLY RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND OF SPEECH. FENDRICK